

The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 16 August 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 AUGUST 1968

1. Jordan

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2. Soviet Union -
Czechoslovakia

Defense Minister Grechko, along with the Soviet Army's political chief and the Soviet commander of Warsaw Pact forces, were in East Germany on Tuesday, according to Tass. The pact's chief of staff, also a Soviet general, is in Poland. All of them are participating in the current military exercises now going on opposite Czechoslovakia. The well-publicized presence of all this brass underlines the importance the Soviets attach to the exercises as a means of keeping the pressure on Prague.

The Soviets apparently plan to keep troops near the Czech border for some time to come. A travel restriction for southeastern East Germany, first proclaimed when Soviet forces moved there last May, has been extended to 1 September.

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3. Soviet Union

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4. Greece

Papadopoulos' would-be assassin not only failed to kill the premier; he also botched an attempt to set off bombs at various points in downtown Athens.

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His ties to the left in general are well established, however, and the government is taking the occasion to begin a wholesale roundup of leftists.

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5. Bolivia

For the second time in two weeks Barrientos is talking of resigning. This time his complaint is that the military is deserting him. We believe he will let himself be dissuaded again, although nothing is certain when he is as worked up as he is at present. If he did resign, the Armed Forces chief, General Ovando, would probably take over, although the latter is not the legal successor.

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6. Laos

Souvanna was pleased by the discussions he had with the US delegation during his recent stay in Paris.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes

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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

North Vietnamese Welcomed in Sudan: The three-man North Vietnamese delegation which is touring Africa was welcomed in Khartoum on 14 August by Foreign Minister Shaykh Ali Abd Al-Rahman.

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One Sudanese commentator says that the Arabs are indebted to the North Vietnamese, not only because they are beating the joint enemy, but because Fatah members are being trained with the Vietnamese in guerilla fighting.

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The Sudanese foreign ministry and the Afro-Asian Solidarity Organization announced a lengthy program for the visitors. The delegation will visit Omdurman on 15 August and also meet with Prime Minister Mahjub.

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Hanoi Continues to Insist on US Concessions:
North Vietnamese officials continue to suggest that all that is required for progress in the Paris talks is additional US concessions. Most reports

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say that nothing short of a full bombing halt would produce results on the Communist side, but others suggest that the Communists are looking for undefined US "gestures" short of such a step.

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North Vietnamese Discuss Rebuilding

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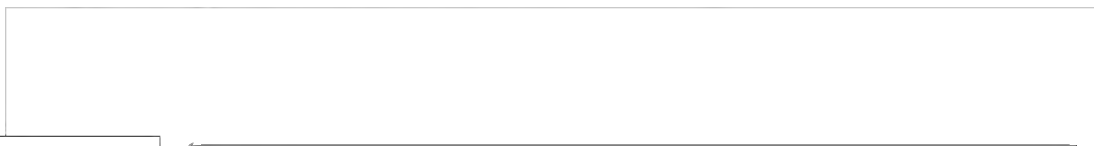
Hanoi's reconstruction efforts so far have been confined to repairing bomb damage, but Hanoi has been developing plans for economic rehabilitation. A recent aid-seeking mission to Communist countries was partially oriented toward long-range economic projects. Hanoi also has previously discussed rebuilding efforts with French and Japanese firms.

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More From the Alliance: On 15 August the Viet Cong radio carried a long communiqué about the second conference of the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces, but it contained nothing not already covered in the original announcement. A political program for the Alliance was adopted at the conference, however, and presumably will be published soon.

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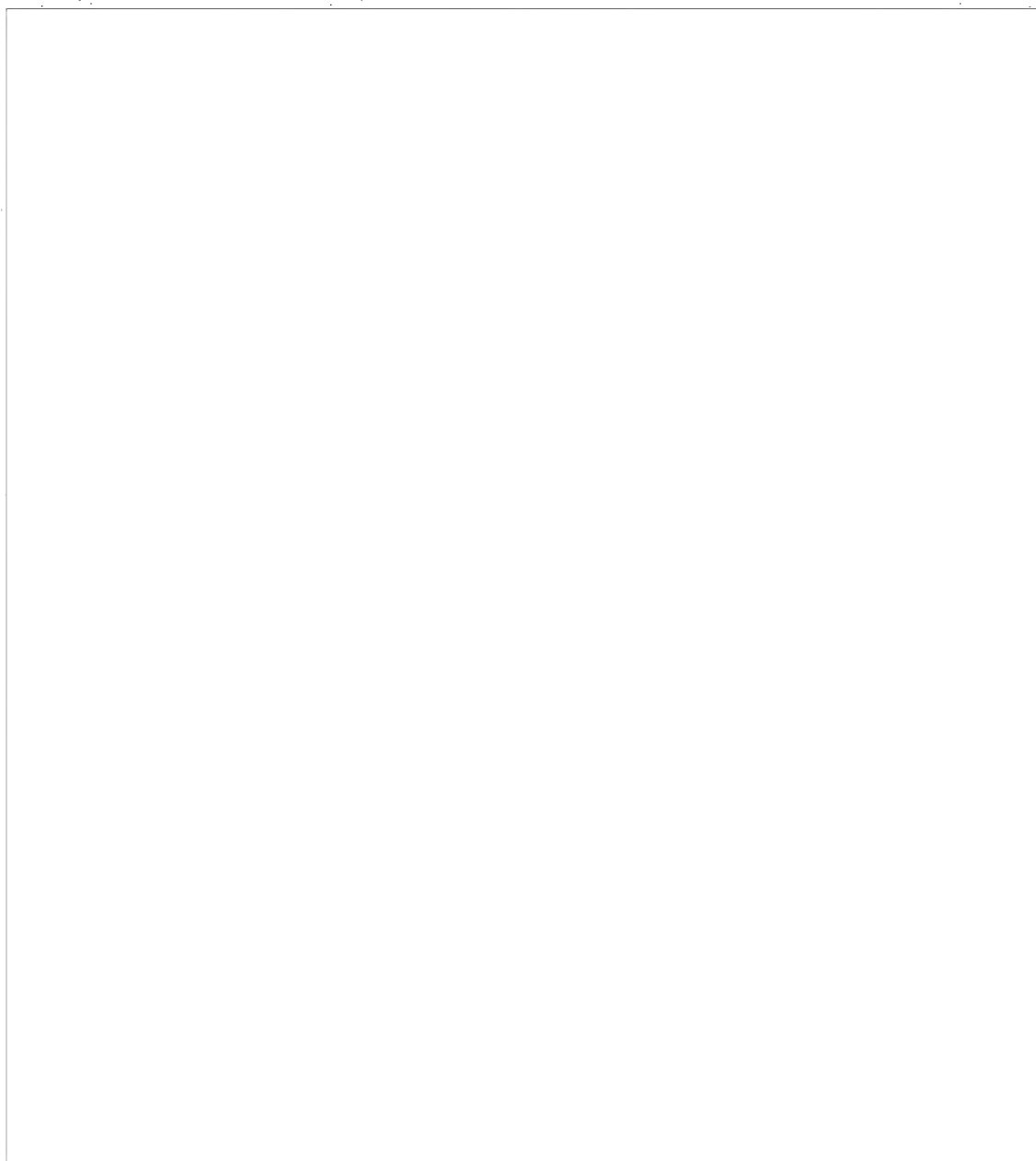
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Reports Chicago Demonstrations: Hanoi's international service in English reported that some 5,000 persons demonstrated in Chicago on 10 August against the war in Vietnam and US domestic policies. According to the 14 August broadcast, some demonstrators carried signs reading "Victory for the Viet Cong." The broadcast reported that American peace activist David Dellinger predicted that some 30,000 to 40,000 persons would gather in Chicago during the Democratic convention to protest the war and domestic racial oppression.

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